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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Black Sea)

REPORT NO.

SUBJECT Port of Batumi

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REFERENCES

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2. The oil harbor was located inside a very large jetty, which extended east-west. (See sketch of the harbor area on page 4.) The jetty was 600 meters long, and was used by steamers of considerable size. The depth of the water on the western end and in the middle section of the jetty was about 30 feet, while the depth at the eastern end was about 20 feet. Parallel to the jetty there was a tier of mooring buoys, used for the loading of foreign ships when Soviet vessels had to take on cargo simultaneously, or when the swell in the harbor was heavy, as often happened. A lighthouse, with an adjoining low building which quartered a watch detail and carried a small searchlight, was located at the head of the jetty. (See sketch.)

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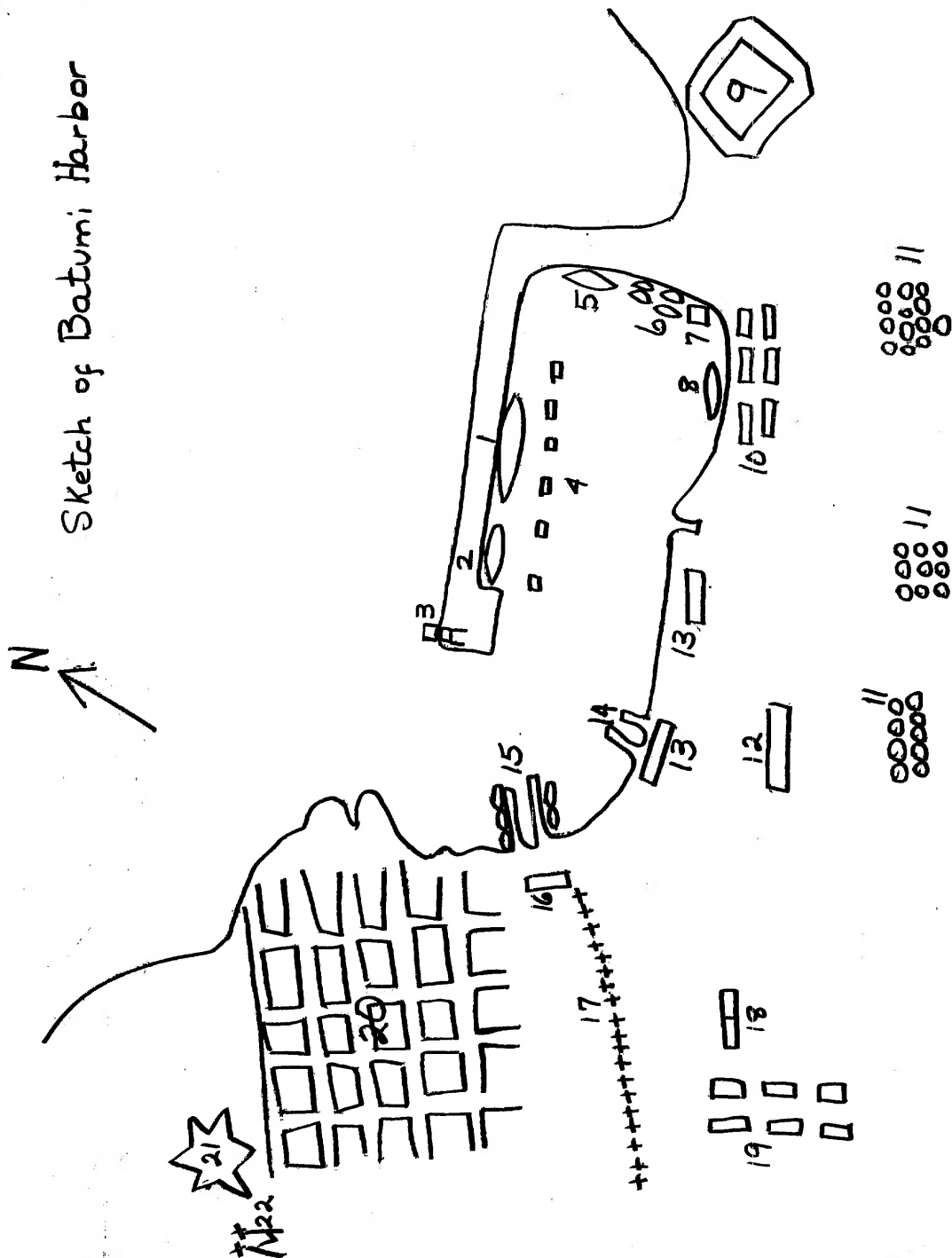
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Legend to the Sketch of Batumi Harbor:

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1. [REDACTED]
2. Berth of an old Soviet destroyer.
3. Lighthouse on the jetty head.
4. Tiers of mooring buoys.
5. Berth of a Soviet merchant ship estimated at between 1,800 and 2,000 dwt, which loaded manganese ore with her own gear.
6. Berth of four lighters.
7. Berth of a floating crane with an estimated lifting power of between 30 and 40 tons.
8. Berth of a Soviet merchant ship which loaded a cargo of trunks.
9. Old fortress.
10. Several sheds. Trunks are stored in the near-by area.
11. Fuel tanks and refining plants.
12. Railroad depot.
13. Storage sheds.
14. Wooden wharves.
15. Two wooden piers. Several lighters and fishing vessels were moored alongside the piers.

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16. Custom-house and police station.
17. Wire fence separating the harbor zone from the town.
18. Navy hospital. Merchant seamen were also hospitalized here.
19. Several long, low buildings inside a fence, probably a Soviet naval barracks. A large number of soldiers was observed within the enclosed area.
20. Town district of Batumi.
21. Former fortress with ramparts patrolled by sentries.
22. Radio station, located about one kilometer farther west than indicated.

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An old Soviet warship [redacted] was moored at the inner side of the west end of the jetty. It was painted dark gray, was about 110 meters long, and had three stacks and three guns on the fantail, one behind the other. Between the stacks there were superstructures which seemed to be used as quarters. [redacted]

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Many soldiers wearing gray or yellowish-white dungarees and white caps were seen on deck; however, no roll calls on deck were observed. Between 50 and 60 men in blue uniforms and clean white caps went ashore on two consecutive days [redacted].

3. There was a high wire fence, which separated the prohibited area of the oil installations from the town, near the customhouse. Members of the crew who were granted unlimited leave were carried ashore in small launches from the jetty head to a stair located between the loading wharves. [redacted]

[redacted] restaurants, which were well furnished and equipped, but very expensive. The price for a meal of soup and meat or fish was between 30 and 40 rubles. The town of Batumi consisted of square blocks. All the houses were made of stone, with the exception of some old dwellings on the outskirts of the town, in which fishermen lived. Most of the stores were cooperatives, and displayed goods similar to those shown in small Western shops. Fish and sunflower kernels apparently were not rationed, and there seemed to be no shortage of commodities. [redacted]

[redacted] the standard of life and particularly the clothing of the townspeople, especially that of the women, had improved. All the women wore silk stockings. In spite of the heat, a few men wore sheepskin caps. Most of them wore small embroidered caps of various colors. Flower stalls and toy stands were observed in the town.

4.



1. [redacted] Comment. This vessel probably was the NEZAMOZHNIK.

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